

CLAIMS

1. An instrument panel image display device, installed on an apparatus so as to display an instrument panel image, said 5 instrument panel image display device being characterized by comprising:

display means for displaying the instrument panel image including a gauge-like image, by which internal and external information of the apparatus is provided to a user, in accordance 10 with image data which codes the gauge-like image; and

image data changing means for changing the image data, which codes the gauge-like image, into image data, which codes other gauge-like image.

15 2. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in claim 1, further comprising

parameter changing means for changing a value indicated by a parameter which defines a display state of the gauge-like image into other value.

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3. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in claim 2, further comprising

parameter judging means for judging whether the value

indicated by the parameter is within a predetermined range or not.

4. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in  
claim 3, wherein

5       in case where the parameter judging means judges that the  
value indicated by the parameter is not within the predetermined  
range,

the parameter changing means changes the value indicated by  
the parameter into a value within the predetermined range.

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5. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in  
claim 4, wherein

the parameter changing means changes the value indicated by  
the parameter into a value closest to a set value within the  
15 predetermined range.

6. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in  
any one of claims 2 to 5, wherein

the parameter defines at least a size and a color of the  
20 gauge-like image.

7. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in  
any one of claims 1 to 6, further comprising

image data obtaining means for obtaining image data, which codes said other gauge-like image, via a network line, from a server having a storage section which stores the image data.

5        8. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in any one of claims 2 to 7, wherein:

the apparatus is a vehicle, and

10      the instrument panel image includes at least a speedometer image indicative of a running speed of the vehicle as the gauge-like image, and

the parameter changing means changes the parameter so that the speedometer image is disposed in front of a driver or in a predetermined position in a visual field of the driver.

15      9. An instrument panel image display device, installed on an apparatus so as to display an instrument panel image, said instrument panel image display device being characterized by comprising:

20      display means for displaying the instrument panel image including a gauge-like image, by which internal and external information is provided to a user, and a background image, which serves as a background of the gauge-like image, in accordance with image data which codes the gauge-like image and image data which

codes the background image; and

image data changing means for changing the image data, which codes the background image, into image data, which codes other background image.

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10. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in claim 9, further comprising

parameter changing means for changing a value indicated by a parameter which defines a display state of the background image  
10 into other value.

11. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in claim 10, further comprising

parameter judging means for judging whether the value  
15 indicated by the parameter is within a predetermined range or not.

12. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in claim 11, wherein

in case where the parameter judging means judges that the  
20 value indicated by the parameter is not within the predetermined range,

the parameter changing means changes the value indicated by the parameter into a value within the predetermined range.

13. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in  
any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein

the parameter defines at least either a color or luminance of  
5 the background image.

14. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in  
any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein

the parameter changing means changes a parameter of at least  
10 either the gauge-like image or the background image so that a  
periphery of the gauge-like image is bordered.

15. A server, providing the image data which codes said other  
gauge-like image to the instrument panel image display device as  
15 set forth in claim 7.

16. An instrument panel image changing system, comprising  
the instrument panel image display device as set forth in claim 7  
and the server as set forth in claim 15.

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17. A vehicle, comprising the instrument panel image display  
device as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 8 and 9 to 14.

18. A method of changing an instrument panel image displayed in an instrument panel image display device installed on an apparatus, said method being characterized by comprising the steps of:

5        displaying the instrument panel image including a gauge-like image, by which internal and external information of the apparatus is provided to a user, in accordance with image data which codes the gauge-like image; and

10      changing the image data, which codes the gauge-like image, into image data, which codes other gauge-like image.

19. A method of changing an instrument panel image displayed in an instrument panel image display device installed on an apparatus, said method being characterized by comprising the steps of:

displaying the instrument panel image including a gauge-like image, by which internal and external information of the apparatus is provided to a user, and a background image, which serves as a background of the gauge-like image, in accordance with image data 20 which codes the gauge-like image and image data which codes the background image; and

changing the image data, which codes the background image, into image data, which codes other background image.

20. An instrument panel image display program, causing the instrument panel image display device as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 8 and 9 to 14 to operate, said instrument panel image display program being characterized by causing a computer to function as the aforementioned means.

21. A computer-readable storage medium, storing the instrument panel image display program as set forth in claim 20.